

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 /081 W

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R 151355Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3550

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

UNCLAS CAIRO 6705

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARAB ARMY REP IN CAIRO

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH AHARAM'S ARAB AFFAIRS EDITOR MAY 15, LEBANESE ARAB ARMY INFORMATION OFFICER QUBAYSI SAID LAA WILL COOPERATE WITH SARKIS ON THREE CONDITIONS: ABOLITION POLITICAL SECTARIANISM, APPLICATION OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, AND OPENING "LEADERSHIPS AND POSITIONS" TO THOSE WHO MERIT THEM WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFESSIONAL AFFILIATION. IF THESE CONDITIONS ARE MET, "WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PRESIDENT-ELECT."

2. QUBAYSI IS QUOTED AS SAYING LAA WOULD NOT HAVE EMERGED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR ARMY LEADERS' FLAGRANT ALIGNMENT WITH ISOLATIONIST FORCES. AT ONE TIME (NON-CHRISTIANS) OFFICERS AND MEN FELT LIKE SECOND-DEGREE CITIZENS. THUS "OUR NATIONAL MOVEMENT" WAS NECESSARY TO SHOW LEBANON IS ARAB AND TO SET UP UNIFIED NATIONAL ARMY.

3. RE PALESTINIANS, QUBAYSI SAID LAA BELIEVES ANY MOLESTATION OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION IS INTOLERABLE AND PALESTINAINS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE RIGHT TO STAY IN ALL ARAB TERRITORIES AROUND ISRAEL.

4. ON ROLE OF LAA, QUBAYSI ASSERTED IT WILL CONTINUE BEARING ARMS UNTIL ITS DEMANDS ARE MET. LEBANON SHOULD BE AN ARAB AND NOT A COMMUNAL REPUBLIC; AND LEBANON SHOULD HAVE A STRONG ARAB ARMY WHICH WILL FUSE WITH THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND HARASS THE ISRAELI ENEMY, THE SAME AS ANY ARAB CONFEDERATION STATE, ACCORDING TO AL AHRAH'S ACCOUNT OF QUBAYSI'S INTERVIEW.

5. TOSSING BOUQUET AT HIS HOSTS, QUBAYSI SAID HE HAD COME TO EGYPT IN RECOGNITION OF EGYPT'S PIONEER ROLE IN ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT. "THERE CAN BE NO ARAB ACTION WITHOUT EGYPT."
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